IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No. 15476 of 2007

For Approval and Signature:

HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE AKSHAY H.MEHTA

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1 Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgment ?

2 To be referred to the Reporter or not ?

3 Whether their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgment ?

4 Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the constitution of India, 1950 or any order made thereunder ?

5 Whether it is to be circulated to the civil judge ?

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BHIKABHAI SOMABHAI PATEL - Petitioner(s)
Versus
TALUKA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - Respondent(s)

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Appearance :
MR NIRAL R MEHTA for Petitioner(s) : 1,
MR KRUNAL PANDYA, AGP for Respondents.

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CORAM : HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE AKSHAY H.MEHTA

Date : 20/06/2007

ORAL JUDGMENT

1. **Rule**. Mr. Krunal Pandya learned A.G.P., waives service of rule on behalf of the respondents. At the request of the learned advocates, the matter is taken up for final hearing today itself.

2. This petition is filed for obtaining appropriate direction on the respondents to enable him to get necessary correction made in the birth certificate. According to the petitioner, his correct name is Bhikhabhai. However, in the birth certificate it is mentioned as Bhikhalal. Further the petitioner has averred that his correct date of birth is 7th November, 1965, but in the birth certificate it is mentioned as 1st December, 1965. Therefore, necessary correction is required to be made in the birth certificate. He had approached the respondent no. 1 with a request for carrying out requisite correction, but the respondent no. 1 expressed his inability to do so, on the ground that there is no provision in law to amend/correct the birth certificate after certain years.

3. Mr. Niral Mehta learned advocate for the petitioner has submitted that the respondent no. 1 – Taluka Development Officer, by virtue of provisions of Section 15 of the Registration of Birth & Death Act, 1969, has power for correction or cancellation of entry in the Register of Births and Deaths. To substantiate his submission he has also placed reliance on the relevant provisions and the order of the learned Single Judge dated 9th October, 2006 rendered in Special Civil Application No. 19683/2006 and its allied matters.

"Section 15: Correction or cancellation of entry in the register of births and deaths.

> If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Registrar that any entry of a birth or death in any register kept by him under this Act is erroneous in form or substance, or has been fraudulently or improperly made, he may, subject to such rules as may be made by the State Government with respect to the conditions on which and the circumstances in which such entries may be corrected or cancelled correct the error or cancel the

entry by suitable entry in the margin, without any alteration of the original entry, and shall sign the marginal entry and add thereto the date of the correction or cancellation."

<u>Rule 11</u> : **Correction or cancellation of entry in the register of births and deaths** :

1. If it is reported to the Registrar that a clerical or formal error has been made in the register or if such error is otherwise noticed by him and if the register is in his possession, the Registrar shall inquire into the matter and if he is satisfied that any such error has been made, he shall correct the error (by correcting or canceling the entry) as provided in Section 15 of the Act and shall sent an extract of the entry showing the error and how it has been corrected to the District Registrar of Births and Deaths.

2. In the case referred to in sub rule (1) if the register is not in the possession the Registrar, he/she shall make a report to the District Registrar of Births and Deaths and call for the relevant register and after inquiring into the matter, if he is satisfied that any such error has been made,make the necessary correction.

3. Any such correction as mentioned in sub rule 2 shall be countersigned by the District Registrar of Births and Deaths when the register is received from the Registrar.

4. If any person asserts that any entry in the register of births and deaths is erroneous in substance, the Registrar may correct the entry in the manner prescribed under Section 15 of the Act upon production by that person a declaration setting forth the nature of the error and true facts of the case made by two credible persons having knowledge of the facts of the case.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1) and sub-rule (4) the Registrar shall make report of any correction of the kind referred to therein giving necessary details to the District Registrar of Births and Deaths.

6. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Registrar that any entry in the register of births and deaths has been made fraudulently or improperly, he shall make a report giving necessary details to the officer authorized by the Chief Registrar by general or special order in this behalf under Section 25 of the Act an on hearing

from him take necessary action in the matter.

7. In every case in which an entry is corrected or cancelled under this rule, intimation thereof should be sent to the permanent address of the person who has given information under Section 8 or Section 9 of the Act.

3.1. The learned Single Judge in his order dated 9th October, 2006 in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2. has quoted the aforementioned provisions of law and thereafter in paragraph 4.3. has held as under :-

> "4.3. In pursuance of the aforesaid provision of Act as well as Rules, the respondent authority shall carry out necessary changes in the register upon arriving satisfaction as to change of birth date/name on the basis of evidence laid by the petitioners."

4. In view of the same, the respondent no. 1 is directed that he shall consider the application of the petitioner for change in the date of birth as well as in the name in the birth certificate and upon arriving at satisfaction as to the change in date of birth and name, shall decide the application accordingly and intimate to the petitioner the decision within seven days thereafter.

With the aforesaid directions, the petition is allowed. Rule is made absolute.

[Akshay H. Mehta, J.]

* Pansala.